

## BOOK REVIEWS.

**A Model Housing Law.** By Lawrence Veiller. *The Survey Associates, New York.* \$2.00.

The appearance of this volume is an evidence of the rapid growth of the movement for better housing in the United States. Four years ago when Mr. Veiller published "A Model Tenement House Law" the demand of the time only called for the regulation of tenement construction and maintenance. Since then we have learned that dark rooms and unsanitary conditions are just as objectionable in one- and two-family houses as in multiple dwellings. A strong sentiment is developing throughout the country that the slums must go, that the dwellings of the future, whether detached or in block, for one family or for many, shall be built in accordance with the best principles of housing construction. •

The Model Law is carefully worked out to these ends. The object of all housing law is to secure suitable light and ventilation, good sanitation, adequate fire protection, decent privacy and proper maintenance in all dwellings, both new and old. Chapters are devoted to each of these subjects and also one to the necessary legal requirements and penalties, for a law without "teeth" is useless. Both the form and the substance

of the Model Law are admirable. For the first time we have a general housing law so clear and simple in arrangement that even the man on the street can understand it as he runs. Without doubt all American legislation on this subject, whether state laws or local ordinances, will henceforth follow this form. The principles embodied in the law have been tested by experience and are sound, and the provisions are so carefully drawn that they seem secure against all attack from speculative building interests. The book is illustrated with a large number of diagrams and plans showing plainly what can be built under the law, and what changes must be made in old buildings to make them conform to modern requirements. Copious notes answer most of the questions which are likely to arise in connection with such a law and add greatly to the value of the book for those who are not experts on the subject. It is indispensable for all who are seeking by legislation to improve the bad housing which is to be found in almost every city and town, and to secure right living conditions in the future for all classes of people.

Elmer S. Forbes.

**City Planning:** *A comprehensive analysis of the subject arranged for the classification of books, plans, photographs, notes and other collected material.* By James Sturgis Pray, chairman, school of landscape architecture, Harvard University; and Theodora Kimball, Librarian, school of landscape architecture, Harvard University—103 pages, Paper Cover. Price \$1. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1913.

Who better than a landscape architect with the training of practice, travel and teaching, in collaboration with an experienced librarian, could arrange a syllabus of City Planning that would be of value to those affected by the development of our towns, as well as to the bibliographer?

The long list of carefully arranged titles is, indeed, a syllabus rather than a basis for a bibliography, but that makes it all the more useful. From the point of view of public health, such headings as: education of

public, regulative legislation, coöperation of experts, hygienic aspects of planning, playgrounds, athletic fields, park systems, types of city plans distinguished by climate, suggest the variety covered.

There is a classification of the subject of housing, streets, and street arrangement, gardens, garden cities, besides an elaborate summary of all the other points of view of Town Planning. With a list of this kind, not only are suggestive titles at hand for the arrangement of literature, and the rapidly

accumulating material coincident with the work of any professional men, but there are also at hand many suggestions for further study along lines as yet insufficiently developed. This classification should be "useful alike to the municipal official, the business administrator, the civil engineer, the sanitary expert, the transportation engineer, the housing reformer, the architect, and the landscape architect, as well as the representative of any one of various other special services, in proportion as his occupation enters and contributes to the field of city planning; and the index will show him quickly at what points his special material is provided for."

In an individual classification the suggestion of checking the printed index to show the presence of material as it is classified, is so simple that it is really likely to be followed. The classification is arranged so that, although it is based on the Library of Congress classification, it can also be applied to other systems, such as the Dewey decimal classification, and a summary is given to show the possibility of inter-locking the two systems. The geographical arrangement is practically that of the Library of Congress, and there is a long alphabetic subject index.

A preliminary outline was published several months before the final analysis, for circulation among critics; Mr. Olmsted on the Data for City Planning; Mr. Flavel Shurtleff on Legislation, Professor Killam on Types of Building Construction; Mr. John Nolen, Professor Ford of Cambridge, Professors Brix and Genzmer of Berlin, and others. Their criticism has had a beneficial effect in the result.

It is undoubtedly true that it would be extremely difficult to carry out a library classification along the lines indicated for the simple reason that the books that have been published are not arranged under similar divisions. Certain of these subjects will have whole volumes to themselves, while other subjects will be grouped with surprisingly foreign material. It is somewhat startling to see wires, sewerage conduits and subways for rapid transit all classified under "channels of transportation."

It must be added that the whole analysis that is so scholarly and carefully worked out it is sure to be a reliable, if not the standard basis for future classification of the rapidly growing subject of city planning.

*F. A. Bourne.*

**The Health Master.** By Samuel Hopkins Adams. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York. Price \$1.35.

A great deal of popular literature dealing with disease prevention that has been published in recent years may be justly criticized because of some of the exaggerated and far-fetched statements that are made. Such a criticism of this highly entertaining and instructive book by Mr. Adams cannot be made. In reading it one finds no statements that are not either based on facts, or where facts are unobtainable, upon the "best rational probability and statistical support." The story centers around the family of Mr. Clyde, into which Mr. Clyde intro-

duces the "Health Master," a physician who is to keep the family well, upon the Chinese plan. The different characters are admirably sketched. The plan of the book may be understood from some of the chapter headings: Chapter VI, "The Re-Made Lady," dealing with personal hygiene; Chapter VII, "The Red Placard," on the quarantine family; Chapter XI, "The Besieged City," with an epidemic period. Health authorities could undertake no better form of popular instruction in public health than to utilize this little book.

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